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EDUCATION

Part XXI. Bulletin 1934—Starting Points Preschool Regulations

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bulletin 1934 was promulgated as a rule in LR 19:1549 (December 1993) and LR 21:1220 (November 1995), and amended LR 24:295 (February 1998) in uncodified format. This bulletin became a codified document in February, 1999 and historical notes will reflect activity from that time forward.

Chapter 1. General Provisions

§101. Purpose

A. The Department of Social Services, lead agency for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Block Grant, has allocated a portion of these funds to the Louisiana Department of Education for program development. The purpose of this program is to assist low income families by providing quality early childhood programs.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 28:274 (February 2002), amended LR 30:1653 (August 2004).

§103. Program Philosophy

A. Local Starting Points Prekindergarten Programs will adhere to the developmental philosophy as outlined by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Developmentally appropriate practices have proven to be effective in early childhood education. Inherent in this philosophy is the provision of a child-centered program directed toward the development of cognitive, social, emotional, communication and motor skills in a manner and at a pace consistent with the needs and capabilities of the individual child.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 28:274 (February 2002), amended LR 30:1653 (August 2004).

Chapter 3. Eligibility

§301. Eligibility Criteria

A. In order to qualify for the Starting Points Preschool Program, participants must:

1. be one year younger than the age eligible for kindergarten;
2. meet the requirements of law for immunization and documentation required for regular school enrollment; and
3. qualify for free or reduced price meals pursuant to the federal child nutrition program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 27:1685 (October 2001), LR 28:274 (February 2002), LR 30:1653 (August 2004).

§303. Eligibility Verification

A. School systems must maintain, at each program site, documentation of the student or his family's eligibility to receive free or reduced price meals pursuant to the federal child nutrition program.

B. Once eligibility is determined, it is valid for a period of one year.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 27:1685 (October 2001), LR 28:275 (February 2002), amended LR 30:1654 (August 2004).

Chapter 5. Program Structure

§501. Health Requirements

A. All children enrolled in the Starting Points Prekindergarten Program must comply with the immunization requirements as established by the Department of Health and Hospitals. All local school systems will administer a vision and hearing-screening test to each student.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999) amended LR 28:275 (February 2002), LR 30:1654 (August 2004), LR 32:1219 (July 2006).

§503. Teacher Qualifications

A. All teachers must possess one of the following credentials:

1. A valid and current Louisiana teaching certificate in Nursery School Education, Early Childhood Education, Kindergarten Education, Early Intervention, Non-Categorical Preschool Handicapped, or Prekindergarten-3.
2. A valid and current Louisiana teaching certificate in Elementary Education and an Out-of-Field Authorization to Teach (OFAT) in Kindergarten, Nursery School, Early Intervention, Non-Categorical Preschool Handicapped, or Prekindergarten-3 (refer to Bulletin 746).
3. An uncertified teacher with a baccalaureate degree and Temporary Employment Permit (TEP), a Temporary

Authority to Teach (TAT), or an Out-of-State Certificate (refer to Bulletin 746).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 27:1685 (October 2001), LR 30:1654 (August 2004).

§505. Professional Development

A. All staff members working directly with children enrolled in the Starting Points Prekindergarten must be provided with 18 clock hours of professional development for continuing education. An orientation of the Starting Points Prekindergarten Program Regulations must be provided as a component of this professional development.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17.154.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 28:275 (February 2002), LR 30:1654 (August 2004).

§507. Parent Involvement

A. Each school system/nonpublic school is required to develop a plan that encourages parent/family participation in the education of their child. The plan must include a program orientation meeting for parents no later than 20 working days after the beginning of the program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17.154.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 28:254 (February 2002), amended LR 30:1654 (August 2004).

§509. Class Size Limitation

A. A student to teacher ratio of no more than twenty to one, and a student to adult staff member ratio of no more than ten to one shall be maintained. The class may not exceed 20 students.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 28:275 (February 2002), LR 30:1654 (August 2004).

§511. Length of School Day and School Year

A. The length of the school day and the school year shall follow the provision established in R.S. 17.154.1. The school day that systems operate shall be a full day with a minimum of 360 minutes of instructional time per day exclusive of lunch, recess, and planning. Instructional days will be based upon the school calendar of each local school system/nonpublic school with a minimum of 177 days of instruction.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 28:275 (February 2002), LR 30:1654 (August 2004).

§513. Daily Schedule

A. The schedule should include the following time allotments and meet the requirements set forth in Bulletin 741 and in the *Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale—Revised*.

1. Student-initiated activities 35%
 - a. Learning centers
 - b. outdoor free play
2. Teacher-directed activities 35%
 - a. whole group activities (no longer than 15-20 minutes at a time)
 - b. small group activities
 - c. outdoor planned activities
3. Snack, restroom 10%
4. Nap 20%

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 28:275 (February 2002), amended LR 30:1654 (August 2004).

§515. Curriculum

A. The curriculum for the Starting Points Prekindergarten Program shall be a research-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum that supports interrelated development. The curriculum should be aligned with the Louisiana Standards for Programs Serving Four-Year-Old Children and should address the Grade-Level Expectations.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 27:1685 (October 2001), LR 28:276 (February 2002), amended LR 30:1655 (August 2004).

§517. Student Assessment

A. The Developing Skills Checklist will be administered in a pretest and posttest manner. Student assessment should be used to plan and modify the instructional program. To help determine the needs of the individual students when planning for instruction, classroom teachers are required to maintain a portfolio on each student. The portfolio will include work samples, photographs, anecdotal records, skills checklists, etc. that are indicative of the children's development based on the *Louisiana Standards for Programs Serving Four-Year-Old Children* and the Grade-Level Expectations. Parent conferences, including information on the child provided by the parent and conference notes as well as any referrals should be included in the portfolio. Portfolios must be kept up-to-date in the classroom for review during on-site visits.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 28:276 (February 2002), amended LR 30:1655 (August 2004).

§519. Equipment, Materials, and Supplies

A. Each item of equipment acquired through Starting Points funds must be used throughout the period of active funding for purposes clearly within the scope of the program. If a program should change locations, all materials and equipment (including playground equipment) must follow the program.

B. In the event that funding is no longer available or the school system /school no longer wishes to participate, the system/school must submit to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education a request to retain the equipment purchased with Starting Points funds. Approval may be granted based on the assurance that the equipment will be used in programs with similar purpose.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 28:276 (February 2002), amended LR 20:1655 (August 2004).

§521. Reporting

A. Each local school system/nonpublic school will be required to report data to the Louisiana Department of Education documenting the effectiveness of the program and the progress toward attaining program goals. The school system/nonpublic school must also submit a final budget detailing exactly how the allocated funds were spent.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 28:275 (February 2002), LR 30:1655 (August 2004).

§523. Monitoring

A. Program Coordinators from the Elementary Standards Section will monitor the records of each program site

annually to ensure compliance with federal and program requirements

B. The *Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R)* will be used to measure the quality of the program. Each program with a new teacher and those programs receiving a score below 5.0 on the ECERS-R will be monitored on a yearly basis until an average score of 5.0 is attained on the scale. All continuing sites serving ten or more Starting Points children will be evaluated on a three-year cycle.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended, LR 27:1685 (October 2001), LR 28:276 (February 2002), LR 30:1655 (August 2004).

§525. Religious Activities

A. According to the federal regulations for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Block Grant, funds provided "under grant or contract may not include sectarian worship or instruction."

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 28:276 (February 2002), LR 30:1655 (August 2004).

§527. Adherence to Regulations

A. Local school systems/nonpublic schools must adhere to all state and federal regulations and guidelines. Failure to do so will result in withdrawal of program funds.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 25:254 (February 1999), amended LR 28:276 (February 2002), LR 30:1655 (August 2004).

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